

# **SSI/SSP Overview**

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### **California Department of Social Services**

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# **Supplemental Security Income/State Supplemental Payment (SSI/SSP)**

SSI/SSP provides a monthly cash benefit to enable aged, blind, and disabled people to meet their basic living expenses. SSI is funded by the US Treasury. SSP is funded by the State General Fund (GF).

The Social Security Administration administers SSI/SSP for the state. Effective October 2014, the administrative fee is \$11.51 per benefit issuance, and is funded 100 percent GF.

Administration costs are estimated at \$184 million FY 14-15;  
\$188 million FY 15-16



# SSI/SSP

- SSI/SSP serves approximately 1.3 million recipients in 20 categorical variations, such as independent single adult, or aged or disabled couple.
- SSI/SSP Budget:

## FY 2014-15

Estimated budget is \$9.6 billion (\$2.5 billion SSP portion)

## FY 2015-16

Estimated budget is \$9.7 billion (\$2.5 billion SSP portion)

# Maintenance of Effort (MOE)

To receive Medicaid reimbursement, states that provide a SSP payment must maintain the state's March 1983 payment level. To meet the ***Maintenance-of-Effort (also known as passalong)*** requirement, two methods are available:

1. ***Payment Levels Method*** — The State may not lower its supplementary payment levels for any of the 20 payment categories below their March 1983 levels.
2. ***Total Expenditures Method*** — State expenditures for supplementary payments in the current calendar year must at least equal expenditures in the preceding calendar year. If expenditures are less in the current year (shortfall), the State must increase expenditures in the next calendar year by an amount at least equal to the shortfall without any penalties.

In 2014, thirty nine states, including California, used the **payment levels method**.



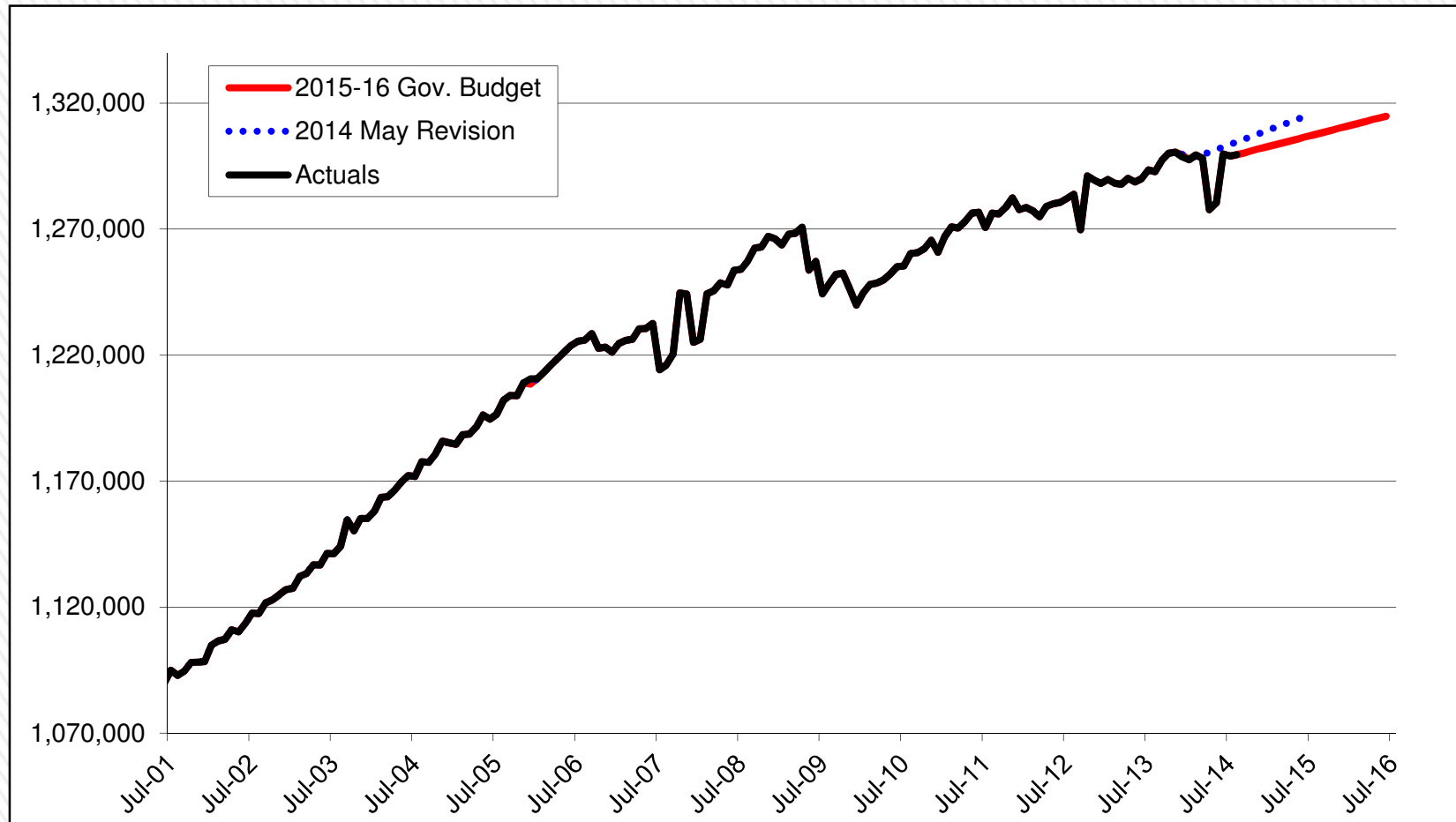
# SSI/SSP and CalFresh

California SSI/SSP recipients are **not** eligible for CalFresh benefits because a \$10 cash amount is included in the SSP benefit in lieu of CalFresh benefits.

- This arrangement is authorized in Federal law and is called the “supplemental nutrition assistance program cash-out program.”
- \$10 is the CalFresh amount most California recipients could have obtained in 1975 when the state’s cash-out status was approved in Federal law.
- The CalFresh benefit is 100 percent federally-funded, however administration costs are shared by the State.
- The SSP payment contains no distinguishable amount for CalFresh. The CalFresh cash-out sum cannot be separated from the total SSP amount used to satisfy the SSI/SSP MOE requirement.

California is currently at the March 1983 payment level. To meet the SSI/SSP MOE requirement, the state cannot reduce the SSP monthly payment below the current levels and therefore cannot end the “cash-out” without moving to the expenditure’s method.

# SSI/SSP Caseload



The total SSI/SSP caseload is comprised of recipients who are aged, blind or disabled with Medi-Cal eligibility categorical codes.



## Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment Historical Data Aged/Disabled Individuals

- Effective January 1, 2015, a SSI/SSP monthly payment ranges from \$889.40 to \$1,664.20.
- As of January 1, 2016, a SSI/SSP monthly payment is projected to range from \$900.40 to \$1,680.20
- Average grants below are based on actual data from July 2013 through June 2014:

	<u>SSI</u>	<u>SSP</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>2015 (est)</u>	<u>2016 (est)</u>
Aged:	\$349.86	\$160.10	\$506.90	\$513.27	\$519.63
Blind:	\$448.43	\$204.97	\$653.40	\$657.58	\$665.73
Disabled:	\$495.62	\$157.64	\$653.26	\$657.76	\$657.76

Federal Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) increase the SSI payments. State COLAs increase the SSP payments

# **Cost of Living Adjustment COLA Overview**



## Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment Historical Data Aged/Disabled Individuals

	SSI	SSP	TOTAL	COLA Pass-through/Suspension and Other reductions	
Jun-2008	\$637	\$251	\$888		CNI COLA at 3.7% <b>suspended</b>
<b>Jan-2009</b>	\$674	\$233	\$907	\$19	CPI COLA passed through at 5.8% and <b><u>CNI COLA suspended</u></b>
May-2009	\$674	\$196	\$870	-\$37	Withheld January CPI COLA
July-2009	\$674	\$176	\$850	-\$20	State SSP grant reduced by 2.3%
Nov-2009	\$674	\$171	\$845	-\$ 5	State SSP grant reduced for individuals only 0 .6%
Jan 2010	\$674	\$171	\$845	0	Negative CPI COLA held at 2009 level
Jan-2011	\$674	\$171	\$845	0	Negative CPI COLA held at 2010 level
<b><u>Jun-2011</u></b>	\$674	<b>\$156.40</b>	\$830.40	-\$14.60	<b><u>SSP MOE floor for individuals only</u></b>
Jan 2012	\$698	\$156.40	\$854.40	\$24	CPI COLA passed through at 3.6%
Jan 2013	\$710	\$156.40	\$866.40	\$12	CPI COLA passed through at 1.7%
Jan 2014	\$721	\$156.40	\$877.40	\$11	CPI COLA passed through at 1.5%
Jan 2015	\$733	\$156.40	\$889.40	\$ 12	CPI COLA pass through at 1.7%
Jan 2016	\$744	\$156.40	\$900.40	\$11	<b><u>PROJECTED</u></b> CPI COLA pas through at 1.5%

## Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment Historical Data Aged/Disabled Couples

	SSI	SSP	TOTAL	COLA Pass-through/Suspension and Other reductions	
Jun-2008	\$956	\$568	\$1,524		CNI COLA at 3.7%, <b>suspended</b>
<b>Jan-2009</b>	\$1,011	\$568	\$1,579	\$55	CPI COLA passed through at 5.8%, <b><u>CNI COLA suspended</u></b>
May-2009	\$1,011	\$513	\$1,524	-\$55	Withheld January CPI COLA
July-2009	\$1,011	\$478	\$1,489	-\$35	State SSP grant reduced by 2.3%
<b><u>Nov-2009</u></b>	\$1,011	<b><u>\$396.20</u></b>	\$1,407.20	-\$81.80	<b><u>SSP MOE Floor for Couples Only</u></b>
Jan 2010	\$1,011	\$396.20	\$1,407.20	0	Negative CPI COLA held at 2009 level
Jan 2011	\$1,011	\$396.20	\$1,407.20	0	Negative CPI COLA held at 2010 level
Jan 2012	\$1,048	\$396.20	\$1,444.20	\$37	CPI COLA passed through at 3.6%
Jan 2013	\$1,066	\$396.20	\$1,462.20	\$18	CPI COLA passed through at 1.7%
Jan 2014	\$1,082	\$396.20	\$1,478.20	\$16	CPI COLA passed through at 1.5%
Jan 2015	\$1,100	\$396.20	\$1,496.20	\$18	CPI COLA pass through at 1.7%
Jan 2016	\$1,116	\$396.20	\$1,512.20	\$16	<b><u>PROJECTED</u></b> CPI CPLA pass through at 1.5%



# SSI/ and Federal Poverty Level

- January 2015 federal poverty guidelines:
  - \$981 per month for individuals
  - \$1,328 per month for couples
  
- SSI/SSP payment standard and poverty guidelines:
  - 2015 SSI/SSP Payment:
    - Individual \$889.40: 91 percent of federal poverty guideline
    - Couple \$1,496.20: 113 percent of federal poverty guideline
  
  - 2016 (**projected**) SSI/SSP Payment:
    - Individual \$900.40: 93 percent of federal poverty guideline
    - Couple \$1,512.20: 115 percent of federal poverty guideline